



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

Released: October 18, 2004, 1:00 p.m.
Week Ending: October 17, 2004
CWP WA-CW4204

Apple Harvest Winding Down Emerg'd Winter Wheat Looked Fair to Good

Field Crops

Rains at the end of the week were experienced throughout the state and aided seeded and emerg'd winter wheat. Overall, most counties reported winter wheat in fair to good condition with some spotty areas due to dry conditions. Whitman County reported that the lack of burn days concerned some operators as they tried to get recrop areas seeded. Adams County corn growers were seeing grain moisture levels dropping and were hopeful to begin harvest again, until weekend rains caused moisture levels to increase. Christmas tree growers continued to do inventory and groom fields for the harvest season.

Livestock

Range and pasture conditions were 7% poor, 37% fair, and 56% good. Several Douglas County cattle producers delivered their calves to market. Kittitas County cattle were still mostly on pasture with some weaning occurring. Ferry and Okanogan Counties started weaning and marketing calves while cattle were moved to fall pastures.

Fruits and Vegetables

Apple harvest was winding down in some counties. Benton County apple and grape harvests were nearing completion. Grays Harbor County sweet corn producers seeded last minute cover crops on harvested fields. Skagit County summer cauliflower plantings were in their final week of harvest. Pumpkin harvest was in full swing.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

| Week | Days |
|-----------|------|
| This Week | 5.8 |
| Last Week | 6.1 |

Moisture and Supply

| Item | Percent | | | |
|---------------------------|---------|----|----|----|
| | VS | SH | AD | S |
| Topsoil | 0 | 20 | 78 | 2 |
| Topsoil 5 Yr Avg | 18 | 41 | 38 | 3 |
| Subsoil | 2 | 29 | 69 | 0 |
| Subsoil 5 Yr Avg | 13 | 48 | 39 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water | 0 | 4 | 96 | 0 |
| Irrigation Water 5 Yr Avg | 0 | 5 | 95 | 0 |
| Hay & Roughage | 0 | 5 | 84 | 11 |

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

| Crop/Activity | Percent Completed | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------------|-----------|------|------------|
| | This Week | Last Week | 2003 | 5 Yr. Avg. |
| Winter Wheat Planted | 95 | 86 | 96 | 95 |
| Winter Wheat Emerged | 83 | 66 | 78 | 80 |
| Potatoes Harvested | 91 | 83 | 86 | 86 |
| Corn Silage Harvested | 82 | 70 | 83 | 92 |
| Corn Grain Harvested | 50 | 30 | 17 | 19 |
| Dry Edible Beans Harvested | 98 | 85 | 99 | 94 |

Crop Condition*

| Crop | % Acreage | | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---|----|-----|----|
| | VP | P | F | G | EX |
| Winter Wheat Dryland | 0 | 2 | 29 | 64 | 5 |
| Winter Wheat Irrigated | 0 | 0 | 0 | 100 | 0 |
| Corn | 0 | 0 | 3 | 95 | 2 |

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent

* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: The entire county was a riot of color as the foliage of bigleaf maple provided an aluminous golden glow across the rural landscape. Record breaking warm temperatures in the middle of the week provided ideal conditions for last minute seeding of winter cover crops on harvested sweet corn fields.

Grays Harbor/Lewis/Pacific: A week of warm, dry weather provided producers with ideal weather for wrapping up fall work. Pastures and hay fields were the greenest they had been in years for this time of year. Moisture had been adequate for fall seedings.

Kitsap: The lack of rain this summer and fall was taking its toll on area forest trees. Many Western hemlock and Douglas fir are drought stressed and mortality is high for trees growing on marginal sites. Reports of higher than usual branch flagging, needle drop and whole tree mortality had prompted area farm and forest land owners to do some salvage harvesting.

Pierce/South King: The weather during the week was good for harvesting corn and other fall crops in the South Puget Sound area. There were no unusual situations to report and no reports of crop damage due to a weather event.

Skagit: Despite all the previous precipitation, some potato growers were finishing up harvest operations for the season. Winter cauliflower plantings looked good. Summer cauliflower plantings were in their final week of harvest. Sunshine and drizzle took turns in their appearances most of the week.

Snohomish/North King: Early in the week weather was normal with foggy mornings and warm afternoons. The weekend weather changed to Fall conditions with lots of rain and wind which was not appreciated by those searching for the perfect pumpkin at local U-pick fields. Those that braved the weather to explore a corn-maze at a local farm were soaked. The last of the corn silage to be harvested was delayed by wet weather.

Snohomish/North King (2nd Report): Cool fall weather continued with heavy rains late in the week. Pasture growth slowed down but some grass silage was still being harvested. Manure spreading continued on nice days. Pumpkin harvest was in full swing. Apple harvest continued.

Thurston: Ag producers took advantage of absolutely beautiful fall weather to complete remaining outside chores. Record breaking warm temperatures mid week helped to boost germination and growth of newly planted turfgrass fields. Truck gardeners continued to reap the benefits of yet another week with no frost. U-Pick pumpkin farms continued to be a favored place among urbanites for finding the perfect Halloween jack-o-lantern. Christmas tree growers continued to do inventory and groom fields for the harvest season. Heavy rainfall over the weekend rapidly increased stream flows in the Chehalis, Black and Nisqually Rivers. Home gardeners continued to rake leaves, harvest pumpkins, and sow winter cover crops in their vegetable gardens.

Central

Benton: No crop losses were reported from damaged crops.

Benton (2nd Report): Apple and grape harvests were near completion. Soil moisture conditions improved with recent rains. Labor problems were easing with reduced harvest needs.

Chelan/Douglas: Apple harvest (except for late varieties) was nearly complete. Winter wheat seemed to have stopped growing. Recent moisture helped. Temperatures were cooling down. Several livestock producers were delivering their calves to market. Cows were in fall pastures.

Franklin: Cool conditions prevailed throughout the week though not far from normal for this time of year. Normal crop activities occurred throughout the week. Most of the fourth cutting hay was in their rows. Corn harvest continued as well as some final late potato fields. Light showers occurred in parts of the county.

Grant: Incorporation of green manure started. Fourth cutting of Alfalfa hay was of very high quality and 93 percent complete. Red delicious harvest was almost complete. Fuji apple harvest was underway. Cameo apple second picking was underway.

Kittitas: A last warm week allowed growth on new seedings of timothy hay and provided some needed regrowth from second cutting fields. Irrigation supplies will be shut off the next week, and the growing season has nearly ended. Cattle were mostly still on pasture with some calves weaning now.

Okanogan/Ferry: Apple harvest was 95 percent complete. Winter wheat plantings were all emerged and looked good at this time. Cattle were moved to fall pastures. Calves started to be weaned and marketed.

Yakima: Average temperatures varied from one to 12 degrees above normal, with .42 of an inch of precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat was in mostly good to fair condition and ten percent excellent. Precipitation at the end of the week and beginning of this week was enough to maintain current moisture conditions.

Adams (2nd Report): Another round of weekend rain was welcomed by the dryland portion of the county, but cursed by corn growers who saw grain moisture levels drop almost enough to resume harvest, before jumping again. Meanwhile, apple harvest continued.

Asotin/Garfield: Most winter wheat seeding was completed except for a few recrop situations. Wheat was emerging well in most areas, but some areas had spotty stands due to dry conditions. Rainfall totals over the weekend were disappointing with most areas receiving less than .25 inches. Pastures in some areas had good moisture this fall resulting in good fall growth, but other areas had little or no new growth this fall due to persisting dry weather.

Lincoln: Winter wheat was in mostly fair to good condition and was nearly all emerged. Precipitation last week and at the beginning of this week maintained current moisture conditions.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Rain on Saturday and Sunday helped the winter wheat that had been seeded. Things looked pretty good compared to the last few years where we had dry falls. A large percentage of the fall work was complete and people were working on cleaning up equipment and finishing up odds and ends. The lack of a hard frost made for nice fall conditions to date.

Stevens: The past week was generally warm and sunny with cool mornings. The weekend was very damp with a nice moisture accumulation.

Walla Walla: Cooler temperatures. Some scattered rain events. Overall conditions were good.

Whitman: Weekend rains made a return to the Palouse for the second week in a row. Precipitation was welcome in improving soil and crop conditions however, the lack of burn days had some operations concerned as they tried to get recrop areas seeded to winter wheat. The weather appeared to be turning to more fall like conditions after very pleasant warm, dry conditions.

National weather website: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service website: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/wa>

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Weekly Weather Statistics

October 18, 2004

| Station | Air Temperature | | | | Growing Degree Days | | | | Last Week Precipitation | | | Season Precipitation | | | | |
|---------------------|-----------------|----|-----|-----|---------------------|-----|----------|-----|-------------------------|-------|------|----------------------|-------|----------|------|--|
| | LO | HI | AVG | DFN | Base 50F | | Base 60F | | Total | | | Total | | % Normal | Days | |
| | | | | | TOT | DFN | TOT | DFN | Inches | DFN | Days | Inches | DFN | | | |
| WEST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bellingham | 45 | 64 | 55 | 5 | 35 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0.55 | -0.19 | 3 | 7.60 | 3.98 | 210 | 24 | |
| Everett | 48 | 64 | 56 | 5 | 41 | 26 | 0 | 0 | 0.89 | 0.23 | 3 | 3.72 | 0.06 | 102 | 23 | |
| Hoquiam | 46 | 71 | 57 | 3 | 47 | 16 | 1 | 1 | 1.31 | -0.02 | 2 | 7.51 | 1.27 | 120 | 24 | |
| Kelso | 43 | 73 | 59 | 7 | 66 | 43 | 8 | 8 | 0.87 | 0.07 | 2 | 3.55 | -0.63 | 85 | 12 | |
| Olympia | 43 | 70 | 56 | 7 | 45 | 36 | 0 | 0 | 0.95 | 0.05 | 2 | 6.69 | 2.45 | 158 | 22 | |
| Sea-Tac | 50 | 69 | 58 | 6 | 56 | 33 | 1 | 1 | 1.01 | 0.34 | 3 | 5.30 | 1.91 | 156 | 23 | |
| Shelton | 44 | 72 | 56 | 5 | 44 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 1.20 | 0.06 | 2 | 7.21 | 2.01 | 139 | 22 | |
| Tacoma | 45 | 68 | 56 | 5 | 46 | 29 | 0 | 0 | 1.08 | 0.40 | 2 | 5.04 | 1.59 | 146 | 20 | |
| Vancouver | 45 | 81 | 60 | 8 | 73 | 53 | 10 | 10 | 0.40 | -0.26 | 1 | 3.29 | -0.21 | 94 | 16 | |
| CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ellensburg | 40 | 81 | 60 | 13 | 73 | 68 | 12 | 12 | 0.35 | 0.21 | 1 | 1.11 | 0.36 | 148 | 14 | |
| Stam pede Pass | 44 | 68 | 52 | 12 | 24 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 1.68 | 0.32 | 3 | 10.67 | 4.25 | 166 | 23 | |
| Wenatchee | 43 | 73 | 57 | 6 | 53 | 36 | 2 | 2 | 0.41 | 0.34 | 2 | 0.84 | 0.28 | 150 | 11 | |
| Yakima AP | 36 | 78 | 57 | 8 | 53 | 40 | 1 | 1 | 0.40 | 0.30 | 1 | 0.98 | 0.39 | 166 | 5 | |
| NORTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Colville | 35 | 75 | 52 | 7 | 19 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0.83 | 0.57 | 2 | 2.81 | 1.13 | 167 | 14 | |
| Deer Park | 28 | 71 | 49 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0.75 | 0.54 | 3 | 2.28 | 0.94 | 170 | 15 | |
| Spokane AP | 38 | 70 | 53 | 6 | 21 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0.26 | 0.05 | 1 | 0.97 | -0.18 | 84 | 10 | |
| EAST CENTRAL | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ephrata | 38 | 74 | 57 | 6 | 51 | 33 | 3 | 3 | 0.92 | 0.85 | 1 | 1.31 | 0.78 | 247 | 8 | |
| Moses Lake | 36 | 74 | 56 | 5 | 45 | 27 | 0 | 0 | 0.66 | 0.59 | 2 | 0.99 | 0.46 | 187 | 7 | |
| Quincy | 38 | 73 | 58 | 8 | 55 | 42 | 3 | 3 | 0.20 | 0.11 | 1 | 0.47 | -0.15 | 76 | 4 | |
| Ritzville | 33 | 73 | 54 | 6 | 34 | 24 | 0 | 0 | 0.30 | 0.15 | 1 | 0.76 | -0.16 | 83 | 7 | |
| SOUTHEAST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hanford | 38 | 78 | 59 | 4 | 64 | 27 | 7 | 5 | 0.29 | 0.22 | 1 | 0.78 | 0.27 | 153 | 7 | |
| Pasco | 35 | 80 | 58 | 6 | 60 | 33 | 4 | 4 | 0.10 | -0.03 | 2 | 0.48 | -0.10 | 83 | 7 | |
| Pullman | 34 | 70 | 52 | 4 | 19 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0.05 | -0.24 | 2 | 0.59 | -1.06 | 36 | 10 | |
| Whitman Miss. | 33 | 78 | 55 | 5 | 33 | 17 | 0 | 0 | 0.17 | -0.04 | 1 | 0.94 | -0.23 | 80 | 11 | |
| ID PANHANDLE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Coeur D'A' AP | 34 | 70 | 52 | 2 | 19 | 7 | 0 | 0 | 0.21 | -0.12 | 1 | 2.44 | 0.52 | 127 | 13 | |
| Lewiston ID | 41 | 72 | 57 | 5 | 50 | 25 | 0 | 0 | 0.01 | -0.20 | 1 | 0.89 | -0.37 | 71 | 12 | |

Summary based on NWS data.

Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2003

DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).

NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.

Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.

Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.

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